

December 7, 2005

CASHEE Alternatives Public Meeting  
California Department of Education  
1430 N Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

All high school students are required to earn 220 graduation units consisting of a minimum number of units in English, math, history, economics, government, geography, science, arts, PE, computer science and electives. In order for the students to earn these units they must make a passing grade on participation, assignments, tests and finals for each class. When they have met all the requirements necessary to earn their 220 graduation units, why should they have to take an exit test in order to graduate?

They have worked four years to earn the units required to graduate and now their future is going to depend on passing an exit exam. They have already passed exams in each class where units have been earned; this should be all that is necessary. How many of us could have passed a high school exit exam? Would we have thought it was fair to be required to pass an exit exam after completing all necessary units for graduation? What would our future have been?

Students with disabilities should have different graduation requirements, depending on their disability and the terms of their IEP. Students with a learning disability should have an alternate program consisting of basic math, reading and English and various vocational classes.

We should be striving to help our students set and obtain goals for their future. "CASHEE", "No Child Left Behind" and so many other programs are ego builders for whoever is promoting them; they put up obstacles for our children's future.

With the California High School Exit Exam requirement, California will soon be #1 for high school dropouts, #1 for fewer students receiving higher education and #1 for welfare recipients. What a bright future we're setting up for our children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

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